

TEACH HOW TO COOK.

SOME EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS OF VALUE.

Domestic Miseries Arising from Bad Cooking—Bread, Potatoes, Pies and Dyspepsia—Inharmonious and House-Cleaning Time.

Housekeeping.
Who has not met with home-made bread, A heavy compound of putty and lead, And home-made wines that rack the head, Home-made pop that will not foam, And home-made dishes that drive one from home?

Hood.
The universality of education at the present day and the unprecedented number of academies, colleges and universities have led to some curious re-

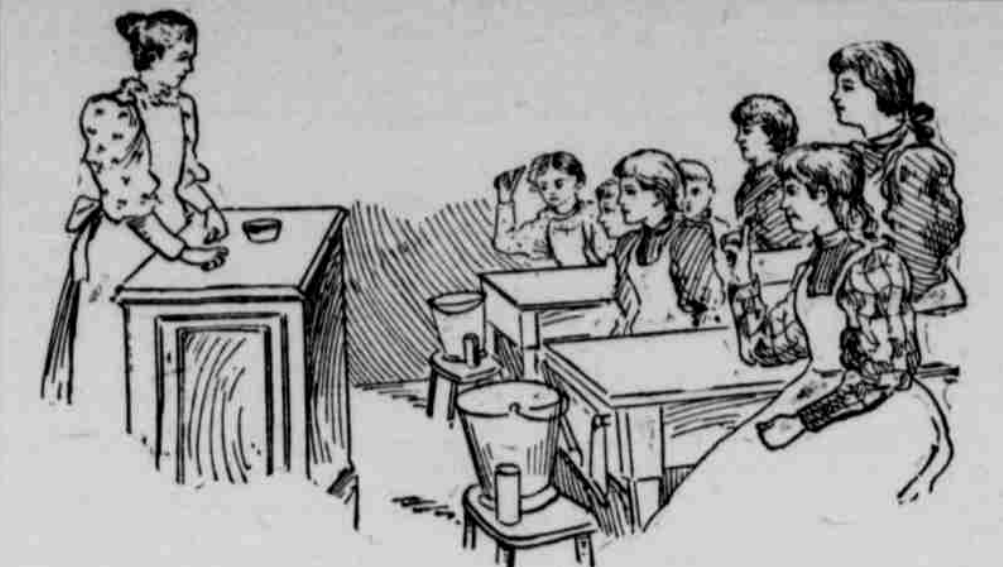


INSTRUCTION IN THE USE OF THE BROOM.

sults, not the least singular among the number being the fact that so general is the respect for mental training, apparently no matter of what nature or degree of efficiency, that not a few people have the idea that a little knowledge, if acquired by the regulation method, is preferable to no end of learning picked up helter-skelter; or, in other words, it is better to be a blockhead by rule than a wise man by

stead of a snappish and discordant trio. Blessed, therefore, forever blessed, be the memory of him or her, as the case may be, who invented housekeeping and cooking schools; that is, of course, provided they teach people to housekeep and cook; if otherwise, they are worse than deceptions, leading confiding men to yield gracefully to the wiles of the charmer in confident anticipation that, as she has been to an establishment where housekeeping and cooking are taught, she must necessarily understand how a house is to be kept and cooking to be done. There are those who say that there is no better school of instruction in such matters than the young lady's own home and no better professor than her mother, but such ideas as this are necessarily old-fashioned, for, as the adept will prove to your entire satisfaction, mothers do not know everything, even if they do sedulously cultivate that idea in the minds of their offspring, and the best appointed kitchens in the most luxurious homes lack many things which the cooking-school professor will prove to be absolutely indispensable in the pursuit of her calling as chief cook. No cook who does not prepare food for a restaurant or hotel can expect to keep in her kitchen the impedimenta which constitute the stock in trade of the professional trainer of cooks, and it is with reason therefore that not a few of these instructors in the art of catering to the wants of the inner man have discarded the array of implements which, to the beginner, is as terrifying as the display of a dentist's case of tools, and have restricted their efforts to showing what can be done with a frying pan, an egg beater, bake oven and a coffee pot. The move is in the right direction, for if a young wife can be trained in the correct use of these and a few more equally simple pieces of kitchen mechanism, there are good hopes that her husband will escape being driven to drink in the hope of finding relief from the miseries of her cooking.

which, in the hands of the young wife or the inexperienced cook who has not shared the blessings of culinary training, can be made as black as your hat on the outside, as raw as a country bumpkin on the inside, and as tough as a prize-fighter all through, when by delicate manipulation it could be rendered of even consistency throughout so as to sustain the strength not only



A LECTURE ON THE SAUCEPAN.

of the man who all day long sits at his desk, but also of him who wears out his shoe leather in the effort to collect bills during a bad season. Nor should the pastry be forgotten. The pie, like the hoop skirt, and the roller skate, and the ladies' sewing society, is a product of the highest civilization, for the monstrous messes dignified in ancient culinary art with the name of pies bear no more resemblance to the delicate dream of the kitchen which now appropriates the name than a wash boiler bears to a steam engine. But there are pies and pies, and the flaky paste circle which covers but does not quite conceal the fruit beneath is quite a different thing from that nightmare with crust of caoutchouc, an underlying stratum of half raw dried apples and a foundation of soft dough. The pie, however, like woman suffrage and diphtheria, has come to stay, and the best that can be done is to manage that as little harm as possible will result from it. The cooking schools can do this if the professors will direct their attention to the solution of the problem, and when they do the generations of men who have suffered anxious days and sleepless nights, who have become convinced that they had heart disease and pleurisy and consumption, who have fancied that they were going to lose their positions and their money, all on account of indigestion chargeable to pie, will rise up and call them blessed.

But there are other miseries of domestic life that the cooking and housekeeping schools should be able to mitigate if not entirely to abolish. There, for instance, is the sweeping, to say nothing of the dusting. Humanity is progressing so rapidly along the lines of solid improvement that it is possible to conceive of a time in the not distant future when a house can be swept from cellar to garret without stifling the inmates with the dust; when a doorway can be cleaned without broomfuls of rubbish being fired from ambush on the unsuspecting passer-by; when a rug or floor cloth can be cleansed without shaking it out of an upper window and allowing its accumulated treasures to fly into the open rooms beneath; but humanity has not as yet, apparently, gone so far.

Nor, up to the present time, has the average feminine mind been able to conceive that on a man's desk there may be order in the midst of apparent confusion. The zeal for "putting things straight" in not a few cases amounts to a mania, and when a woman turns herself loose in the presence of a table or desk covered with books, papers, manuscripts and memoranda, she is in her element. It is true that the proprietor of the desk may be compelled a little later to search an hour for a paper he needs immediately, but that is nothing to her; the desk has been "straightened up so as to look decent," and this, of course, is the main object for which a desk was created. A schedule of studies for a housekeeping school should contain a special course on this line, and by impressing on the minds of students the fact that when a man can find what he wants to him his desk is in per-

fectly happy. With her husband's return as dress when compared to the toll of rendering assistance in the cleaning. Nor are their fathers much better off than themselves, for when house-cleaning is to be done all considerations of comfort must stand from under. But lovely woman is in her element, for then, if never before, she has something to complain about, and is thus perfectly happy. With her hus-



band's linen duster loosely fitted to her fragile form, and her husband's last summer's straw hat mounted above her brow, with a brush in one hand, a dust pan in the other, she bustles about from room to room, giving directions as to how things must be done. The spot of soot on her nose is a trifle; in vain does her husband protest; the house "has got to be cleaned, and that settles it." So on she goes in her mad career, with bitterness in her heart, with a pain in her back that makes it feel like it would break, with a certainty that she is destined to be "laid up" on the morrow, and yet with a grim determination that the house shall be clean, though husbands rage and imagine vain things. She knows her business. Other women clean house, so must she. The fact that



SAMPLING THE SOUP.

the house needs no cleaning is not of the slightest consequence; the motions must be gone through with if for no other reason than to teach the tyrant man that there are times and seasons when the down-trodden wife, like the crushed worm, will turn and assert her supremacy.

So in many directions there are fields of usefulness open to the University of Housekeeping. Departments of washing, scrubbing, sweeping, ironing, linen-folding, will doubtless be as useful in their way as those of the various branches of culinary art. Above all, there should be an especial professorship established in each to give instruction in the art of doing all these things in such a way as to cause the lord of the manor to be not sorry that he is still living. To him the various operations connected with the management of the establishment are a weariness, but that fact does not in the least interfere with their regular order, so that his insignificance on high and mighty occasions such as house-cleaning time is painfully prominent. Any relief that could be furnished him by the housekeeping colleges would cause millions of his kind to shower down benedictions on their roofs.

Man Always a Carver.

History does not treat of a time when carving was not apparently well known. Tradition does not appear to approach much nearer to its genesis. Carvings were well executed during the period of man's early occupation of the caves of Europe, and most persons who have familiarized themselves with archeological research knew the figures of fish or seal engraved on the canine teeth of large carnivora, and the bear, reindeer, muskox, horse, mammoth and other animals carved on reindeerhorn implements or on plates of ivory, the figures of animals being at the time cut fully in the round and found in the lowest strata of the caves, under many feet of cave earth and stalagmite, and associated with the bones of a quaternary and, at times, an arctic fauna. The similarity of much of this cave work with much of the Eskimo production of the present day has given rise to innumerable theories concerning a common origin for both peoples.—The American Anthropologist.

A Big Plow.

The largest plow in the world, perhaps, is owned by Richard Gird, of San Bernardino County, California. This immense sod turner stands eighteen feet high and weighs 36,000 pounds. It runs by steam, is provided with twelve 12 inch plow shares, and is capable of plowing fifty acres of land per day. It consumes from one to one and a half tons of coal per day, and usually travels at the rate of four miles an hour.

In Homer's Day.

In Homer's days the Greeks were purely flesh-eaters; but a few centuries before Christ we find the Athenians such thorough fish-eaters that, instead of speaking of the morning meal or mid-day meals as we do, they spoke of their mid-day fish or evening fish, just as the North German speaks of his mid-day bread or his evening bread.

TO AID NEBRASKANS.

STATEMENT GIVEN OUT BY THE RELIEF COMMISSION.

About 240 Car Loads of Provisions and Clothing Raised—Local Distribution Committees at Work in Twenty-six Counties—A Double Suicide.

Work of Relief.

W. N. Nason, President of the Nebraska State Relief Commission, has made the following statement in regard to the reorganization and work of the commission:

"The commission is not a one-man concern at all, as, in addition to myself, the following gentlemen are members of it: Rev. L. P. Ludden, Secretary; J. H. McClay, Lincoln, Treasurer; Rev. Joseph T. Duryea, Omaha; C. J. Ernst, J. W. Hartley and A. J. Sawyer, Lincoln; Henry Sprick, Fontanelle; and S. B. Thompson, Broken Bow; making in all nine members composing the commission. We have an auditing committee, and a record is kept of everything that is received and paid out, and the auditing committee audits the regular working majority we authorized Rev. L. P. Ludden to incur incidental expenses, the principal item of which is the salary of one stenographer. All the bills are to be submitted to the committee for approval.

"When we first organized the commission we had nothing to dispense and our idea was to get people interested in the movement to raise funds without soliciting aid or advertising the State adversely, and we have been successful in obtaining large contributions in this way. We decided that we would try to organize Omaha in a quiet way and get our people to do what they can to aid sufferers. We do not want to prey upon the citizens of Omaha, as they have so many charitable causes that they are taking care of now, but we merely wanted to stimulate the movement.

"We do our work in a systematic manner, and wherever a county has applied for relief we have uniformly required the people of that section to call a public meeting and appoint a central committee, comprising two members of the county board and from five to seven citizens satisfactory to the people of the section to constitute the central committee, with whom we transact our business, and that central committee appoints a committee of three in every precinct where there is destitution, and this last committee acts as a visiting committee. We have effected organization of committees in this way in twenty-six counties.

"Among others who have already given us relief from outside points are: Mrs. C. L. Burrows, of Savanna, Ill., who has donated a car-load of coal. We have just received a check from William H. Allen, of Boston, Mass., for \$158, and the other day the same gentleman sent us a check for \$200, besides a lot of good clothing. F. H. Hummel has sent us \$25, and the proprietors of a coal mine at Athens, Ill., have promised to send us the output for a half day of their coal mines, which will amount to about fourteen car-loads of coal, and the Burlington Road has consented to transport it free.

"We have already distributed about 200 car-loads of provisions, coal and clothing, and about forty more car-loads are now in the course of transportation. I should estimate that we have already disbursed about \$11,500 for the relief of the sufferers. This is the amount of cash paid out up to date. It was arranged at the meeting last week that there would be one or two members of the commission in the office at Lincoln from now on so as to attend to the prompt distribution of supplies."

HUSBAND AND WIFE DIE.

Destitution in a Nebraska Family Leads to a Double Suicide.

As a result of destitution and their helpless situation among hundreds of starving people, John Harris and wife, living near Paxton, Neb., committed suicide with a razor. Mrs. Harris was found lying on the bed entirely nude, with her throat cut from ear to ear, and the bedclothing saturated with blood. John Harris, the husband, was found lying on the floor near the foot of the bed with his throat likewise cut. The couple had only moved to their present place a month ago. The house in which they lived was a sod dugout, situated seven miles southwest of Paxton. The surroundings of the place went to show that the pair were in very poor circumstances. No motive can be given for the deed except that the wife was expecting soon to become a mother and was on the verge of starvation and suffering. They were probably too proud to beg. The following letter was found, written by the husband in a clear and steady hand:

"Dear Old Parents—We have decided to end our lives together. I'm sick before daylight and it is now 7 o'clock. I'd cut her throat and I cut mine. I would give the world to see my poor old father and mother. It seems like a year since I saw any of my folks."

The country round about Paxton has produced good crops in times past, and will undoubtedly do so again, but the failure in 1893 and again in 1894 was almost complete, and the situation is most pitiable. Among the different families in Keith County now in a state of destitution there are between 500 and 600 children. The commissioners confess their inability to cope with the situation.

LOSS MAY REACH EIGHT MILLION

Pierce's Victims Said to Be More Numerous than Supposed.

Information received in Yankton, S. D., from London regarding J. T. M. Pierce's swindling transactions show that the aggregate British losses may reach the stupendous sum of \$8,000,000. A letter from a London firm of solicitors says that not a quarter of the fraudulent transactions have yet come to light. It is stated that the receipts by Pierce at his London office were limited only by his ability to issue bonds and mortgages and other paper often exceeding \$100,000 a week, and it is alleged in London that he received no less than \$500,000 during his last week there. It is owing to his gigantic transactions that his victims expect to receive an offer of compromise after the matter shall have cooled down. To make these losses known would impair the credit of the losers, and also make them an object of ridicule, therefore they prefer to bear their losses in silence. One million four hundred and four thousand dollars of forged bonds, mortgages and tax deeds are now in possession of agents of creditors of Pierce in Yankton. They have been sent there as claims against the estate of Pierce, but this estate will not sell

for enough to pay the attorney's fees. The claims which are accompanied by the spurious security are as follows: American Mortgage Trust Company, London, Bedford investors, \$200,000; Belfast investors, \$150,000; Glasgow, Scotland, \$250,000; Huddersfield, Eng., \$100,000; J. S. Fagan, Brooklyn, \$70,000; W. S. Johnson, London, \$50,000; real estate frauds in Yankton, \$78,000; total, \$1,404,000.

INSURANCE FIGURES.

Losses by Fire in the United States for the Year 1894.

The Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin says: The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of December, as estimated from our daily files, amounts to \$10,521,000, and the total for the year is therefore \$128,246,400. The following comparative table exhibits the losses by months:

	1892.	1893.	1894.
Jan.	\$12,564,900	\$17,388,400	\$10,598,400
Feb.	11,914,000	9,919,900	11,297,000
Mar.	10,518,000	10,022,500	9,147,100
Apr.	11,530,800	14,069,900	11,540,000
May	9,485,000	10,427,100	10,777,800
June	9,295,550	16,344,050	8,282,300
July	11,530,000	12,118,700	10,307,000
Aug.	10,145,300	13,222,700	10,432,800
Sept.	7,879,800	10,508,700	10,149,000
Oct.	13,340,200	11,914,700	8,180,700
Nov.	12,008,700	11,403,000	12,125,800
Dec.	12,354,450	12,105,475	10,521,000

Total for year \$132,704,700 \$156,445,875 \$128,246,400

A glance at the table will show how much less the losses of 1894 are than those of 1893 or even 1892. When the increase in insurable value in the country, and particularly the decided and general advances in fire insurance rates, is considered, it is not strange that the fire insurance statements now being published should confirm our predictions of last month as to liberal profits.

A large portion of the fire loss of the country is preventable, but there is a deplorable apathy of public sentiment upon this point. In spite of the fact that this apathy is responsible for fire loss and resultant expense insurance, poor or crooked fire marshals are permitted to be appointed, political "combinations" sell inefficient water works to municipalities, fire chiefs get a commission on rotten hose and defective engines, incendiaries are covertly admired, if not applauded, as "slick," electric wires are recklessly installed, and worse than careless insurance companies insure suspected firebugs and dangerously constructed property.

Fully half the fire loss of the United States is chargeable to the combination of carelessness and crime, and a proper understanding of this fact by the masses would result in some reform at least. Who can doubt what the effect would be if the factors which make insurance costly were given with their respective proportions in detail in the agent's bill instead of the mere lump sum of the premium? Supposing for a \$10 premium the bill ran:

To natural and unpreventable hazard.	\$4 00
To unavoidable incendiaries.	75
To crooked or incompetent fire marshals.	75
To dishonesty in purchasing fire appliances.	50
To political job in water-works.	50
To recklessness of electrical companies.	80
To carelessness of underwriters.	50
To taxes given away to exempt firemen.	20
To other State or local taxes or fees.	25
To poor or corrupt building inspectors.	50
To owners not enforcing care in building.	25
To commission to agent.	1 50

Total \$10 00

Were every premium payer to have the cost of his insurance analyzed for him, just as he was paying his premium, the needed reduction in fire loss would soon be brought about by a wave of public sentiment. It is wonderful how what might be called the "wrongness of a wrong" stirs the righteous zeal of the populace when the nerve running from the pocket to the moral sense is agitated at its lower extremity. If every male citizen in the United States were this month openly and specifically subjected to a tax of \$1 to make up for the unnecessary fire loss of 1894 there would be a general move in the direction of reducing the fire waste to reasonable proportions.

DYING IN A MADHOUSE.

W. J. Scanlan, Once a Leading Comedian, Is Now Near Unto Death.

Wm. J. Scanlan, who was a universal favorite on the vaudeville stage, is reported to be at the point of death at White Plains insane asylum, New York. He first began to show signs of parietic insanity two years ago, and was sent to



WM. J. SCANLAN.

Bloomington asylum. This actor had a knack of always pleasing his audience, whether by word or gesture. His wit was clean and quick, and was partly to his Celtic origin. His failing mind and incarceration was a cause of deep regret to thousands of his admirers. Scanlan wrote quite a number of popular songs. "Molly O" was the one that had the greatest vogue. Scanlan's career has been a strangely romantic one. When a boy he was a boot-black in New York, and here he first displayed his talent by amusing his patrons. When the dreadful malady came on him he was the leading Irish comedian in America.

Congress to Legislate Sunday.

The law compelling Congress to adjourn sine die at noon on March 4 will compel that body to legislate on Sunday this year. Our national lawmakers will remain in session all Saturday night and pretty much of Sunday. There will be an interim for sleep. From Sunday afternoon both branches will remain in continuous session until noon of the following day. This was the case at the close of the Fiftyeth Congress, during Harrison's administration, and also at the close of the short session during Hayes' administration.

Edward J. Phelps, ex-Minister to England, has returned to New Haven to resume his course of lectures before the Yale law student.

hap-hazard. This opinion once thoroughly understood, fully accounts for the immense number of institutions which propose to teach anything that the human mind is capable of grasping. The principle is, if anything is worth knowing, it is worth learning in a manner at once business-like and as thoroughly systematic as befits the spirit of the age. For this is the age of system, and whether the knocker at the gate of wisdom proposes to teach the young idea how to shoot or designs to prepare the food that gives the young idea strength to do the shooting, it is all one; a course of preliminary training must be undergone before the thing can be understood to have been done in consonance with the eternal canons of art, or, to put the matter more familiarly, "according to Gunter." At bottom the idea is not bad, for if a thing is capable of being learned at all, it is best learned under the instruction of those who know all about it, and there is no earthly reason why there should not be educational establishments where young women can be instructed in the duties that they are expected to perform when engaged in the various occupations incidental to housework, and the St. Louis Globe-Democrat is of the opinion that if no young woman were allowed to be married until she had been through a course of training preparatory to housekeeping, particularly of cooking, the amount of domestic misery would be lessened 25 per cent. in a single generation.

In the matter of bread, for instance, the possibilities of the staff of life in breeding domestic strife are innumerable. A young wife, ignorant of the mysteries of bread manufacture, may make up her mind to a married life of misery, for the reason that no husband, no matter how devoted he may believe himself, can retain his devotion for any considerable length of time if regularly furnished with heavy bread. He may try. For a time he may succeed. Morning after morning he may worry down the soggy mass in the hope that nature will be good to him and by the kindly operations of her mysterious laboratory remedy the deficiencies of his wife's knowledge. Nature, thus adjured, fails to and does the best she can, but sooner or later, generally the former, throws up the job in despair, and admonishes him that there must be a change. Often he does not know what is the matter with him. He becomes cross, surly; is guilty of that most grievous and unforgivable of all offenses in married life, "talking back" to his wife, and she, poor thing, thinks he has ceased to love her, and goes to her room and cries about the change, when it is only in accordance with the order of nature. She thinks his love is vanishing, when, in fact, it is only his liver out of order, and prompt change of diet would soon speedily remove every cloud from the domestic horizon and make the twain an harmonious one in-

For bad bread is not the only article that is able, when taken into the human system, to induce the belief that life is not worth living. There, for instance, is the potato. This savory, excellent, highly nutritious when prepared by hands skilled in arts culinary, becomes a potency for evil should the presiding genius of the range and saucepan be inspired with the idea that potatoes can be cooked "anyhow" and still be good. Furthermore, there is a pet superstition that potatoes boiled or baked and left over from one repast can be made equally savory and nourishing by the simple process of slicing them, mixing them with some description of grease and frying them until they are as tough as disks of leather and quite as digestible. The potato, like the oyster, must be perfectly fresh to be eatable at all; and then again, like the oyster, must be prepared in the simplest possible manner. All the arts of the cook school professor can not make potatoes fried in grease anything but insults to the digestive apparatus, and although there are human ostriches who can swallow fried potatoes, and glass, and horseshoe nails, and hot biscuits, and marbles, and for the moment



MEASURING AND WEIGHING THE VICTUALS.

seem to take no hurt, their fate is but deferred, for nature, though long suffering, neither forgets nor forgives. There can be no denial, therefore, of the fact that the limits of the cooking school's usefulness are practically boundless, for besides bread and potatoes there is coffee, which can be made a drink fit for the gods, but in the ordinary household is simply a hot, black, bitter liquid, which bites the tongue and scalds the throat, and in so doing confers a benefit, as thus the sense of taste is blunted to that extent that the drinker can not tell what the potato resembles. And there is beefsteak,

fect order, although to others it may seem in hopeless confusion, they will confer a favor of no little magnitude on a host of men who keep desks and like to have them remain undisturbed. The relation of house-cleaning to domestic comfort is a subject which might profitably find a place in the list of domestic-economic studies. There are probably few boys in the land but who, when in gladsome spring they behold an array of buckets and scrubbing brushes on the back porch, have hidden their caps under their jackets and surreptitiously hid them away for a day's fishing, counting the thrashing upon